

## Message Text

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43

ACTION DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 NEA-10 IO-14 AID-20 DRC-01 /160 W

----- 109268

R 281200Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 378

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 21556

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT VS

SUBJ: EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS

1. GENERAL HIEP, HEAD OF THE TPJMC, SAID IN A NEWS CONFERENCE THIS MORNING (DEC 28) THAT THE GVN HAS MADE PROGRESS TOWARD AN EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS BEFORE TET. HIEP SAID HE HAD BEEN CONDUCTING SECRET NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE VIET CONG DURING THE PAST MONTH AND THAT HE IS NOW OPTIMISTIC THAT A FULL EXCHANGE OF POWS CAN BE ACHIEVED BEFORE THE LUNAR NEW YEAR BEGINS ON JANUARY 23.

2. COMMENT: PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWED MEETING WITH PRG'S GENERAL TUAN HELD AT CAMP DAVIS AFTERNOON OF 27TH AT HIEP'S INITIATIVE. RESUMPTION OF RELEASE OF CIVILIAN DETAINEES AND POWS (SUSPENDED LAST JULY) WAS PRINCIPAL SUBSTANTIVE ISSUE DISCUSSED. THIS MORNING, WHILE EMPHASIZING THAT GVN WAS TAKING THE INITIATIVE, HIEP AVOIDED CRITICIZING PRG ON THIS SUBJECT AND SPOKE OF THE REASONABLE TONE OF THE DISCUSSION. HE ALSO AVOIDED DETAILS, WHILE STRESSING HIS OPTIMISM AND CAUTIONING PRESS TO TREAT ISSUE CAREFULLY TO AVOID ENDANGERING PROGRESS. IN AFTERNOON, HIEP TELEPHONED TUAN TO REASSURE HIM THAT HE HAD SPOKEN ONLY IN GENERAL TERMS AND IN UP-BEAT, OPTIMISTIC VEIN.

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MARTIN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRG, NEGOTIATIONS, POW RETURN, PEACE TALKS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 28 DEC 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** garlanwa  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973SAIGON21556  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** SAIGON  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t1973123/aaaaabpt.tel  
**Line Count:** 61  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION DPW  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** garlanwa  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 25 SEP 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <25-Sep-2001 by smithrj>; APPROVED <30-Nov-2001 by garlanwa>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS  
**TAGS:** PINT, VS, TPJMC  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005